

Message Text

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INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
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TAGS: PFOR, ID, TH
SUBJECT: VISIT OF THAILAND PRIME MINISTER TO INDONESIA

1. SUMMARY. OFFICIAL STATEMENTS RELATED TO VISIT OF THAILAND PRIME MINISTER THANIN TO INDONESIA DECEMBER 10-12 PUT MAJOR EMPHASIS ON CLOSER ECONOMIC RELATIONS BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES AND AMONG ASEAN MEMBERS. SECURITY PROBLEMS FACING ASEAN WERE MENTIONED RELATIVELY INFREQUENTLY, AND POSSIBILITY OF ASEAN MILITARY PACT WAS DEFINITELY REJECTED. END SUMMARY.

2. THAI PRIME MINISTER THANIN KRAIVICHEN VISITED INDONESIA DECEMBER 10-12 FOR TALKS WITH PRESIDENT SHARTO ON REGIONAL MATTERS. THE TWO LEADERS MET FOR TWO SESSIONS OF TALKS DECEMBER 10 AND 11, GAVE BRIEF SPEECHES AT STATE BANQUET DECEMBER 10 AND ISSUED A COMMUNIQUE DECEMBER 11. PM THANIN HELD PRESS CONFERENCE DECEMBER 11 PRIOR TO DEPARTING JAKARTA FOR ONE-DAY VISIT TO BALI.

3. IN HIS SPEECH AT STATE BANQUET, PRESIDENT SUHARTO NOTED THAT INDONESIA AND THAILAND WERE FACING SAME FUNDAMENTAL PROBLEMS AND WERE SHORT OF CAPITAL, MODERN

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TECHNOLOGY AND SKILLS NEEDED TO EXPLOIT NATURAL RESOURCES,

HARNESS POTENTIAL OF NATURE, AND MANAGE THE ECONOMY RATIONALLY. QUOTE WE ARE STILL ADAPTING OUR NATIONAL VALUES TO DEMANDS OF PROGRESS END QUOTE, HE SAID. SUHARTO POINTED OUT THAT THE TWO COUNTRIES WERE THUS EXTREMELY VULNERABLE TO ANY DISTURBANCES, QUOTE PARTICULARLY SINCE THERE ARE CONFLICTS BETWEEN MAJOR WORLD POWERS WHICH OFTEN MAKE THE REGION AN ARENA OF CONFLICT OR STRUGGLE FOR INFLUENCE, EITHER OVERTLY OR COVERTLY END QUOTE. HE STRESSED, HOWEVER, THAT THE ONLY ANSWER TO THESE CHALLENGES IS CONCEPT OF NATIONAL RESILIENCE, COVERING FIELDS OF NATIONAL IDEOLOGY, POLITICS, ECONOMY, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS AS WELL AS DEFENSE AND SECURITY. HE ADDED THAT BY ESTABLISHING NATIONAL RESILIENCE THE TWO COUNTRIES ARE SIMULTANEOUSLY WORKING FOR REGIONAL RESILIENCE, PARTICULARLY THROUGH ASEAN, AND

LOOKING TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF SOUTHEAST ASIA AS A ZONE OF PEACE, FREEDOM AND NEUTRALITY.

4. IN HIS BANQUET SPEECH THANIN SAID HE WAS CONFIDENT

THAT TALKS WITH SUHARTO WOULD FURTHER CONSOLIDATE RELATIONS BETWEEN THAILAND INDONESIA. HE SAID HE WAS CONVINCED THAT ASEAN WOULD HAVE A BETTER FUTURE AND IN SPITE OF DIFFERENT ECONOMIC STANDARDS AMONG ITS MEMBERS THEY COULD OVERCOME DIFFICULTIES THROUGH CLOSE COOPERATION. THANIN NOTED THE HOSTILE ATTITUDES OF SOME COUNTRIES TOWARD ASEAN BUT SAID THE ASSOCIATION WOULD CONTINUE TO GROW AND THAILAND WOULD NOT ABANDON ITS COMMITMENTS WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF ASEAN.

5. JOIN COMMUNIQUE ISSUED DECEMBER 11 STATED THAT THE TWO LEADERS REAFFIRMED THAT STABILITY AND PROSPERITY IN

ASEAN NATIONS WOULD BE POSITIVE CONTRIBUTIONS TO WORLD PEACE, IN ACCORDANCE WITH DECLARATION OF ASEAN CONCORD IN BALI. THE LEADERS EMPHASIZED THE NECESSITY TO ACCELERATE ASEAN ECONOMIC COOPERATION AND AGREED TO SEEK EXTENSION OF INTRA-ASEAN TRADE THROUGH PREFERENTIAL TRADING AGREEMENTS AND EXPEDITE REGIONAL INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT THROUGH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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REGULAR COORDINATION AND CONSULTATIONS AMONG ASEAN MEMBERS. IN THIS RESPECT, THEY CONSIDERED IT OF UTMOST IMPORTANCE TO FINALIZE THE ECONOMIC MINISTERS COMMITTEE MEETING BEFORE THE ECONOMIC MINISTERS MEET IN JANUARY 1977. THEY ACKNOWLEDGED THE IMPORTANCE OF STRENGTHENING THE MACHINERY OF ASEAN, WITH PARTICULAR ATTENTION TO THE EFFECTIVE FUNCTIONING OF THE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL.

6. COMMUNIQUE ALSO NOTED THAT INDONESIA AGREED TO GIVE PRIORITY TO PURCHASE UP TO 300,000 METRIC TONS OF SURPLUS RICE FROM THAILAND AND TO SET ASIDE PART OF ITS OIL PRODUCTION TO MEET THAILAND'S NEEDS. DISCUSSIONS TO IMPLEMENT THIS AGREEMENT ARE TO BE HELD SOON. SUHARTO AND THANIN ALSO DISCUSSED POSSIBILITY OF THAILAND'S IMPORTATION OF INDONESIAN FERTILIZER AND QUESTION OF THAI FISHING ACTIVITIES IN INDONESIAN WATERS.

7. COMMUNIQUE CONCLUDED WITH REAFFIRMATION OF BELIEF BY TWO LEADERS THAT SPIRIT OF MUTUAL TRUST, NON-INTERFERENCE IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS, PEACEFUL CO-EXISTENCE AND MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL COOPERATION, IRRESPECTIVE OF IDEOLOGICAL DIFFERENCES AND POLITICAL AND SOCIAL SYSTEMS, ARE THE PREREQUISITES FOR PEACE, SECURITY, AND PROSPERITY IN THE REGION.

8. AT HIS DECEMBER 11 PRESS CONFERENCE PM THANIN SAID HE HAD FOUND REAL SPIRIT OF COOPERATION TO PROMOTE COLLABORATION AMONG ASEAN MEMBERS DURING HIS TALKS WITH PRESIDENT SUHARTO. HE DESCRIBED TALKS AS "VERY SUCCESSFUL". ASKED WHETHER HE HAD DISCUSSED IDEA OF ASEAN MILITARY PACT WITH SUHARTO, THANIN SAID SUCH A PACT COULD NOT BE FORMED WITHIN ASEAN AND ANGRILY DENIED THAT HE FAVORED SUCH AN ALLIANCE. HE REFUSED TO COMMENT ON INDONESIAN-MALAYSIAN COOPERATION IN WEAPONS PRODUCTION LOOKING TOWARD STANDARDIZATION OF WEAPONS THROUGHOUT ASEAN.

9. THANIN POINTED OUT THAT COMMUNISTS CONSTITUTE AN IMMINENT DANGER IN THE REGION, EVEN FOR INDONESIA, SINCE THEIR ULTIMATE GOAL WAS WORLD DOMINATION. THANIN STATED THAT THERE MUST BE COOPERATION IN OPPOSING COMMUNIST SCHEMES BUT WOULD NOT MENTION FROM WHAT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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COUNTRIES HE MIGHT EXPECT HELP IF COMMUNISTS ATTACK THAILAND NOR WOULD HE MENTION WHICH COUNTRIES HAVE SUPPORTED COMMUNIST INSURGENCIES IN HIS COUNTRY. HE ADDED THAT HE DOUBTED VERY MUCH THAT VIETNAM WAS NOW IN A POSITION TO LAUNCH AN INVASION OF THAILAND, AS MENTIONED EARLIER BY THAI INTERIOR MINISTER SAMAK.

10. THANIN WAS ACCOMPANIED BY DEFENSE MINISTER ADMIRAL SANGAD AND OTHER OFFICIALS WHO CONSULTED WITH INDONESIAN COUNTERPARTS ON MILITARY AND TRADE MATTERS. WHILE TRADE AGREEMENTS ON RICE, OIL, AND POSSIBLY FERTILIZER WERE ANNOUNCED, NO PUBLIC MENTION WAS MADE OF SECURITY CONSULTATIONS. TONE OF OFFICIAL COMMENT AND NEWS REPORTING CONSISTENTLY STRESSED ECONOMIC RATHER THAN MILITARY COOPERATION. THANIN'S ANGRY DENIAL OF

INTENTIONS TO FORM ASEAN MILITARY PACT WAS PROMINENTLY
FEATURED IN PRESS ACCOUNTS, AS WAS SUHARTO'S EMPHASIS ON
NATIONAL RESILIENCE AS THE ONLY ANSWER TO ASEAN NATIONS'
SECURITY PROBLEMS.
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